

Press Release

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Congresswoman Baldwin Highlights New Passport Rules

U.S. citizens' photo ID and proof of application will temporarily be accepted instead of a passport for travel by air to Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, and some Caribbean countries

Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin reminds constituents that in light of the backlog in processing passport applications, the U.S. Departments of State and Homeland Security have announced that U.S. citizens traveling by air to Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, and some countries in the Caribbean who have applied for, but not yet received, passports can temporarily enter and depart from the United States by air with a government issued photo ID and Department of State official proof of application for a passport through September 30, 2007. Children under the age of 16 traveling with their parents or legal guardian will be permitted to travel with the child's proof of application. U.S. citizens with pending passport applications can obtain proof of their application at: <http://travel.state.gov>. Baldwin advises citizens traveling under the relaxed restrictions, to also carry some proof of American citizenship (e.g., birth certificate, naturalization certificate). Some countries may require that for entry along with a photo ID.

Travelers to the Caribbean should also know that not all nations in the Caribbean are accepting this proof of application and do require a passport. Baldwin suggests people check the U.S. State Dept. home page for country by country counsel reports for entry and exit requirements.

The new temporary accommodation also does not affect entry requirements to other countries. Americans traveling to a country that requires passports must still present those documents. Travelers who have not applied for a passport should not expect to be accommodated.

People who still have questions about passport requirements or who are experiencing a long delay in receiving their passport may contact Congresswoman Baldwin's office in Madison for assistance at 608-258-9800.

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